

Appln No. 10/612,518  
Amdt date March 25, 2008  
Reply to Office action of December 28, 2007

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for collaborative affinity marketing including a processor, ~~an aggregator~~ a plurality of aggregators, a participant, and a merchant, the method comprising:

~~enrolling with~~ receiving by a the collaborative affinity marketing system ~~by enrollment~~ information from the aggregator plurality of aggregators, participant, and merchant;

assigning a participant identification code to the participant, wherein the participant identification code keeps identity of the participant anonymous;

storing the enrollment information of the aggregator plurality of aggregators, participant, and merchant in a database;

selecting by the participant a selected aggregator from the plurality of aggregators;

providing the participant identification code to the merchant, when the participant initiates a purchase transaction with the merchant;

storing information about the participant identification code and an amount ~~[[of]]~~ for the purchase transaction, by the merchant;

~~sending~~ receiving the stored participant identification code, the amount ~~[[of]]~~ for the purchase transaction, and funds corresponding to a portion of the amount ~~[[of]]~~ for the purchase transaction~~[[ to]]~~ by the processor; and

sending a portion of the funds received by the processor ~~from the merchant~~ to the selected aggregator,

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wherein each of the processor, selected aggregator, participant, and merchant has a respective access right for accessing the stored information in the database and different portions of the stored information are accessible by the processor, selected aggregator, participant, and merchant based on ~~their~~ the respective access right, and wherein the ~~participant is capable of enrolling with the~~ collaborative affinity marketing system is capable of enrolling the participant while maintaining participant's anonymity from the selected aggregator, the merchant, and the processor.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the participant enrolls with the processor ~~and selects the aggregator as a desired aggregator.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the participant enrolls with the selected aggregator.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising sending the participant identification code to the processor without disclosing the identity of the participant.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~step of~~ providing the participant identification code to the merchant comprises of presenting a participant card to the merchant.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the participant card is one or more of ~~the~~ a group of a bar coded card, a card with magnetic strip, a smart card, and a radio frequency identification card.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~step of~~ sending a portion of the funds received by the processor from the merchant to the selected aggregator comprises of providing a credit to the aggregator.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the purchase transaction is an on-line transaction and the participant identification code is provided to the merchant electronically.

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9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~step of~~ providing the participant identification code to the merchant comprises of scanning a fingerprint or retina of the participant.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the participant identification code is stored in a merchant-~~sale~~ sales tracking system as an item, when the participant initiates a purchase transaction.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected aggregator is one or more of the group a not-for-profit organization, a marketer organization or a product distributor.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the enrollment information of the ~~aggregator~~ plurality of aggregators, participant, and merchant are stored in a processor database.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the processor database is accessible via a processor website.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the funds corresponding to a portion of the amount of purchase transaction are sent to the processor via electronic fund transfer.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the portion of the funds received by the processor from the merchant are sent to the selected aggregator via electronic fund transfer.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing historical data for each of the processor, selected aggregator, participant, and merchant.

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17. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising validating the stored participant identification code, the amount of purchase transaction, and the funds corresponding to a portion of the amount of purchase transaction by the processor.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising processing the validated ~~information~~ stored participant identification code, amount of purchase transaction, and funds corresponding to a portion of the amount of purchase transaction by the processor for statistical and demographic analysis.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending a report generated by the merchant to the processor.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending a report generated by the processor to the selected aggregator.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a report by the processor for the participant.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for coordinating and managing rebates by a merchant of a portion of a purchase made by a participant to an aggregator, the method comprising:

registering with one or more registry by the aggregator, the participant, and the merchant;

generating a participant identification code for the participant and a processor identification code for the processor;

storing registration information of the aggregator, participant, and merchant;

providing the participant identification code and the processor identification code to the merchant, when the participant initiates the purchase with the merchant;

storing the participant identification code and amount of purchase transaction by the merchant as sale tracking item;

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sending the stored participant identification code, the stored amount of purchase transaction, and funds corresponding to a portion of the amount of purchase transaction to the processor based on the stored processor identification code; and

sending a portion of the funds received by the processor from the merchant to the aggregator.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the participant registers with the processor and selects the aggregator as a desired aggregator.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the participant registers with the aggregator.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, further comprising sending the participant identification code to the processor without disclosing the identity of the participant.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein each of the processor, aggregator, participant, and merchant has a respective access right for accessing the stored information and different portions of the stored information are accessible by the processor, aggregator, participant, and merchant based on their respective access right.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the participant is capable of enrolling with the collaborative affinity marketing while maintaining participant's anonymity.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the step of providing the participant identification code to the merchant comprises of presenting to the merchant one or more of the group a bar coded card, a card with a magnetic strip, a smart card, and a radio frequency identification card.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the purchase transaction is an on-line transaction and the participant identification code is provided to the merchant electronically.

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30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the participant identification code and the processor identification code are stored in a merchant sale tracking system as an item, when the participant initiates a purchase transaction.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the registration information of the aggregator, participant, and merchant are stored in a processor database.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the processor database is accessible via a processor website.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the funds corresponding to a portion of the amount of purchase transaction and the portion of the funds received by the processor from the merchant are sent to the processor via electronic fund transfer.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, further comprising sending a report generated by the merchant to the processor.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, further comprising sending a report generated by the processor to the aggregator.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, further comprising generating a report by the processor for the participant.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the step of sending a portion of the funds received by the processor from the merchant to the aggregator comprises of providing a credit to the aggregator.

38. (Currently Amended) A system for collaborative affinity marketing including a processor, ~~an aggregator~~ a plurality of aggregators, a participant, and a merchant, comprising:

means for enrolling-receiving enrollment information from the aggregator-plurality of aggregators, participant, and merchant ~~with the collaborative affinity marketing~~;

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means for assigning a participant identification code to the participant, wherein the participant identification code keeps identity of the participant anonymous;

a database ~~means~~ for storing the enrollment information of the ~~aggregator~~ plurality of aggregators, participant, and merchant;

means for selecting by the participant a selected aggregator from the plurality of aggregators;

means for providing the participant identification code to the merchant, when the participant initiates a purchase transaction with the merchant;

means for storing information about the participant identification code and an amount ~~[[of]]~~ for the purchase transaction, by the merchant;

means for ~~sending~~ receiving the stored participant identification code, the amount ~~[[of]]~~ for the purchase transaction, and funds corresponding to a portion of the amount ~~[[of]]~~ for the purchase transaction ~~to~~ by the processor; and

means for sending a portion of the funds received by the processor ~~from the merchant to~~ the selected aggregator,

wherein each of the processor, selected aggregator, participant, and merchant has a respective access right for accessing the stored information in the database and different portions of the stored information are accessible by the processor, selected aggregator, participant, and merchant based on ~~their~~ the respective access right, and wherein the ~~participant is capable of enrolling with the~~ collaborative affinity marketing system is capable of enrolling the participant while maintaining participant's anonymity from the selected aggregator, the merchant, and the processor.

39. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The system of claim 38, further comprising means for enrolling the participant with the processor ~~and means for selecting the aggregator as a desired aggregator by the participant.~~

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40. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The system of claim 38, further comprising means for enrolling the participant with the selected aggregator.

41. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 38, further comprising means for sending the participant identification code to the processor without disclosing the identity of the participant.

42. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The system of claim 38, wherein the means for providing the participant identification code to the merchant comprises means for providing one or more of ~~the~~ a group of a bar coded card, a card with magnetic strip, a smart card, and a radio frequency identification card to the merchant.

43. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 38, the means for storing enrollment information of the ~~aggregator~~ plurality of aggregators, participant, and merchant is a processor database accessible via a processor website.

44. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The system of claim 38, wherein the means for sending a portion of the funds received by the processor from the merchant to the selected aggregator comprises of means for providing a credit to the selected aggregator.

45. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 38, further comprising means for storing the participant identification code in a merchant sale tracking system as an item.

46. (Withdrawn) A system for coordinating and managing rebates by a merchant of a portion of a purchase made by a participant to an aggregator, the method comprising:

means for registering with one or more registry by the aggregator, the participant, and the merchant;

means for generating a participant identification code for the participant and a processor identification code for the processor;

means for storing registration information of the aggregator, participant, and merchant;



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means for providing the participant identification code and the processor identification code to the merchant, when the participant initiates the purchase with the merchant;

means for storing the participant identification code and amount of purchase transaction in a merchant sale tracking system as an item;

means for sending the stored participant identification code, the stored amount of purchase transaction, and funds corresponding to a portion of the amount of purchase transaction to the processor based on the stored processor identification code; and

means for sending a portion of the funds received by the processor from the merchant to the aggregator.

47. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a set of instructions including instruction for coordinating and managing rebates by a merchant of portion of a purchase made by a participant to an aggregator through a web site interface the instructions, when executed by a plurality of computers connected to the Internet, cause the computers to perform the steps of:

enrolling with a website by the aggregator, the participant, and the merchant;

assigning a participant identification code to the participant;

storing enrollment information of the aggregator, participant, and merchant;

providing the participant identification code to the merchant, when the participant initiates a purchase transaction with the merchant;

storing the participant identification code and amount of purchase transaction by the merchant;

sending the stored participant identification code, the amount of purchase transaction, and funds corresponding to a portion of the amount of purchase transaction to the processor; and

sending a portion of the funds received by the processor from the merchant to the aggregator,

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wherein each of the processor, aggregator, participant, and merchant has a respective access right for accessing the stored information and different portions of the stored information are accessible by the processor, aggregator, participant, and merchant based on their respective access right.